

CHAPTER XII.—PLATES 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 53*, 54, 54*, 55.

INDIAN ORNAMENT,

FROM THE EXHIBITIONS OF 1851 AND 1855.

PLATE XLIX.

Ornaments from Works in Metal, exhibited in the Indian Collection in 1851.

PLATES L., LI., LII.

Ornaments from Embroidered and Woven Fabrics, and Paintings on Vases, exhibited in the Indian Collection in 1851, and now at South Kensington Museum.

PLATES LIII., LIII*, LIV., LIV*.

Specimens of Painted Lacquer-work, from the Collection at the India House.

PLATE LV.

Ornaments from Woven and Embroidered Fabrics, and Painted Boxes, exhibited in the Indian Collection at Paris in 1855.

THE Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations in 1851 was barely opened to the public ere attention was directed to the gorgeous contributions of India.

Amid the general disorder everywhere apparent in the application of Art to manufactures, the presence of so much unity of design, so much skill and judgment in its application, with so much of elegance and refinement in the execution, as was observable in all the works, not only of India, but of all the other Mohammadan contributing countries,—Tunis, Egypt, and Turkey,—excited a degree of attention from artists, manufacturers, and the public, which has not been without its fruits.

Whilst in the works contributed by the various nations of Europe, there was everywhere to be observed an entire absence of any common principle in the application of Art to manufactures,—whilst from one end to the other of the vast structure there could be found but a fruitless struggle after novelty, irrespective of fitness, that all design was based upon a system of copying and misapplying